

No bones about it

Agriculture Dept. has ordered meat processors to stop production of mechanically deboned meat (MDM) used in such meat products as hot dogs, luncheon meats & numerous forms of sausage.

Agriculture announced the halt Sept. 14 following an earlier **U.S. District Court** ruling that ordered producers to stop using MDM because it contained particles of crushed bone. Court's order does not require the recall of meat products containing MDM that are already on the market. (Order does not apply to fish & poultry products that contain ground bone; ground bone has been allowed in these products for years.)

A number of consumer groups had requested the action on the grounds that the effects of ingesting crushed bone are unknown & that Agriculture had not completed conclusive safety tests. Groups also complained that labels on packages of meat products containing crushed bone had identified the contents merely as "meat" & did not reveal accurate information, such as crushed bone content.

Mechanical deboning process involves crushing bone to obtain meat particles that would be wasted by hand deboning. Crushed material is then strained to remove most of the bone. While the remaining amount of bone is small (0.05% or less), it may be sufficient to constitute a health hazard.

Agriculture had issued interim rules permitting MDM before the approval process for permanent regulations involving consumer comment had been completed.

Education meeting

Office of Consumer Affairs (OCA) will hold its 2nd annual Consumer Education Catch-Up Conference Nov. 11 & 12 (starting at 8:45 a.m. daily), in the auditorium of Health, Education & Welfare Dept., 330 Independence Ave. SW, Washington, DC. Conference will feature speakers, workshops & displays to introduce consumer-education newcomers to principal issues, successful approaches & resources that may be useful in developing & expanding consumer education programs. Specific topics will include: evaluating consumer services, consumer credit, food & health, housing, utilities & consumer representation.

There is no charge to attend the conference. To register or to get additional information, contact: Sandra L. Willett, Associate Director for Consumer Education, Office of Consumer Affairs, Washington, DC 20201; phone: 202-245-8217.

consumer news

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE
Office of Consumer Affairs
Virginia H. Knauer, Director

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President's memorandum for consumers

In announcing the publication of the final Consumer Representation Plans [*Federal Register*: Sept. 28; pages 42763-42876] of 17 departments & agencies in the Executive Branch of the Federal Government, President Ford also issued a memorandum concerning actions to be taken to supplement the 17 policy statements. Highlights of the memorandum are as follows:

- Virginia Knauer, Special Assistant to the President for Consumer Affairs, has continuing responsibility for monitoring the extent & effectiveness of the implementation of each department & agency's consumer programs in the Consumer Representation Plans.
- **Office of Management & Budget (OMB)** is to assess these consumer programs during the annual budget process. Working with OMB, Mrs. Knauer is to provide consumers with an annual report on consumer programs.
- Department & agencies must be sure that their employees fulfill the intent of the consumer programs. Each department or agency is to strengthen its consumer policies as the need arises.
- Each proposed regulation, final regulation or notice published in *Federal Register* by any department or agency must provide the name, address & phone number of person responsible for responding to consumers.
- Each department & agency is to support & participate in the inter-agency **Consumer Education & Information Liaison (CEIL)**, which has been established by **Office of Consumer Affairs (OCA)**. Also, Mrs. Knauer is to coordinate CEIL's activities & to encourage independent Federal agencies to participate in CEIL's programs of consumer education & information. Mrs. Knauer is to provide the President with an annual report on CEIL.
- To help non-English-speaking consumers, each department & agency is to try to provide its headquarters & regional & field offices with bilingual personnel who can speak & read the non-English language of an area. Also, departments & agencies are to make an extra effort to notify non-English-speaking consumers of proposed regulation that would affect consumers.
- Mrs. Knauer, with OMB, is to develop guidelines for use by **Federal Executive Boards & Federal Regional Councils** (both are organizations of high-level Federal employees in cities outside of Washington) to establish programs to help assure liaison with individual consumers & consumer organizations.
- A more consolidated approach would enhance the strengths of OCA & **Consumer Information Center (CIC)** of **General Services Administration (GSA)**. The President's staff is "to seek methods that will strengthen that relationship, and to seek to accommodate the consolidation of staff, resources and functions" of CIC with OCA.

President Ford's memorandum also noted that he has asked independent Federal agencies, which are not part of the Executive Branch, to advise him on what they are doing to improve consumer representation in their proceedings [*CONSUMER NEWS*: Aug. 1, 1975, & May 1, 1976].

For details on Consumer Representation Plans, see **CONSUMER REGISTER** this issue.

A look at the new car crop: Miles-per-gallon ratings for 1977 models & interior dimensions

Federal Energy Administration (FEA) & Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have jointly issued the 1977 Gas Mileage Guide for New Car Buyers. EPA performs the gas mileage tests for each new model car, & FEA prints & distributes the guide.

Energy Policy & Conservation Act of 1975 requires that car dealers make copies of the miles-per-gallon guide available to consumers & that the guide be displayed prominently in car showrooms. More than 12.5 million copies of the guide are being printed for distribution to the nation's 25,000 new car dealers.

One of the principal changes in the 1977 guide, which the law requires, is that all vehicles are grouped into different size classes according to their interior size. This is to help the consumer compare the fuel economy of similar-sized vehicles. Cars are also grouped by types—sedans, station wagons & 2-seaters. Within the sedan grouping the classes are:

SUBCOMPACT—Cars having up to 2.83 cubic meters (100 cubic feet) of passenger & luggage space.

COMPACT—Cars having 2.83 to 3.11 cubic meters (100 to 110 cubic feet) of space.

MID-SIZE—Cars having 3.11 to 3.40 cubic meters (110 to 120 cubic feet) of space.

LARGE—Cars having more than 3.4 cubic meters (120 cubic feet).

Station wagon groups are:

SMALL—Less than 3.68 cubic meters of passenger & cargo space (130 cubic feet).

MID-SIZE—Between 3.68 & 4.53 cubic meters (130 & 160 cubic feet).

LARGE—More than 4.53 cubic meters (160 cubic feet).

No class size information has been provided for 2-seaters.

Truck classifications are:

SMALL PICKUPS—Gross vehicle weight ratings (GVWR) (truck weight plus carrying capacity) under 2041 kilograms (4500 pounds).

STANDARD PICKUPS—GVWR's 2041 to 2722 kilograms (4500 to 6000 pounds).

VAN/SPECIAL PURPOSE CLASS—All other light trucks.

(Continued on page 3)

Top of the charts

According to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) tests, the following 1977-model cars have the best combined (city & highway) gas mileage in each class; in classes where more than one car ranked at the top, all are listed.

Manufacturer & model

Vehicle description

Fuel economy (miles per gallon—MPG)

Manufacturer & model	Vehicle description	Engine size (cubic inches)/cylinders	Transmission (A = automatic; M = manual)	Fuel system (FI = fuel injection; 1 = 1-barrel carburetor; 2 = 2-barrel carburetor)	Passenger space (cubic feet)	Trunk space (cubic feet)	City MPG	Highway MPG	Combined MPG	Projected Average Annual Fuel Costs
SUBCOMPACT CARS										
Volkswagen Rabbit Diesel		90/4*	M	FI	80	15	39	52	44	\$188
COMPACT CARS										
Pontiac Ventura		151/4	M	2	93	14	22	34	26	\$375
MID-SIZE CARS										
Buick Century/Regal		231/6	A	2	97	15	17	25	20	\$488
Chevrolet Malibu		250/6	M	1	99	15	18	25	20	\$488
Oldsmobile Cutlass		231/6	A	2	97	16	17	25	20	\$488
LARGE CARS										
Buick LeSabre		231/6	A	2	109	21	17	25	20	\$488
Oldsmobile Delta 88		231/6	A	2	109	20	17	25	20	\$488
Pontiac		231/6	A	2	109	20	17	25	20	\$488
TWO-SEATERS										
Datsun 280 Z		168/6*	M	FI	—	—	18	27	21	\$464
Porsche 924		121/4*	M	FI	—	—	17	31	21	\$464
SMALL STATION WAGONS										
Volkswagen Dasher Diesel		90/4*	M	FI	83	40	35	47	40	\$206
MID-SIZE STATION WAGONS										
Dodge Aspen Wagon		225/6	M	2	99	39	17	24	20	\$488
Plymouth Volare Wagon		225/6	M	2	99	39	17	24	20	\$488
LARGE STATION WAGONS										
Pontiac Safari Wagon		301/8	A	2	111	51	16	23	19	\$513
SMALL PICKUP TRUCKS										
Toyota Hilux		134/4*	M	2	—	—	24	34	28	\$348
STANDARD PICKUP TRUCKS										
Ford Pickup		300/6	M	1	—	—	19	26	22	\$443
VANS/SPECIAL PURPOSE TRUCKS										
Chevrolet Luv Cab Chassis		111/4*	M	2	—	—	21	33	25	\$390

*No catalytic converter

nsions — How economical? How roomy?

These interior dimensions are considered to be more meaningful to consumers than exterior measurements because they give a truer picture of the usable space a vehicle provides. Manufacturers have designed 1977-model cars to provide nearly the same roominess of many past models while reducing weight & exterior dimensions.

For 1977, the law also requires that each new car & light truck offered for sale have an attached label stating fuel economy, average annual fuel costs & the range of fuel economy for cars in a comparable class. In previous years, labels disclosing gas mileage figures have been provided by manufacturers on a voluntary basis.

This year's guide also gives the projected fuel costs for each car. FEA & EPA prepared the figures using measurement techniques developed by the Society of Automotive Engineers. Interior space is computed by using measurements for head room, shoulder room & leg room for the front & rear seats plus the trunk volume.

Because of design changes for 1977 cars, mileage figures & estimated fuel costs between classes are comparable in many cases. Consumers should be aware that cars in the smaller classes do not necessarily give better gas mileage than cars in larger classes. For example, FEA & EPA figures show that a mid-size Buick Century Regal with a 231 cubic inch 6 cylinder engine—having 97 cubic feet of interior room & 15 cubic feet of trunk space—has the same city & highway combined gas mileage as a full-size Oldsmobile Delta 88 with the same size engine but having 109 cubic feet of interior room & 20 cubic feet of trunk space. This is possible because of the changes that enable larger roomier cars to achieve better fuel economy as a result of reduced weight, exterior size & engine size.

Due to tougher auto exhaust standards in California, a separate booklet, *1977 California Gas Mileage Guide for New Car Buyers*, has been prepared. To obtain single copies of *1977 Gas Mileage Guide* (or the California guide) write—after Nov. 1—to: Fuel Economy, Pueblo, CO 81009. For bulk copies of either guide after Nov. 1, write to: Fuel Economy, Federal Energy Administration, DPM Room 6500, Washington, DC 20461.

Space

AVERAGE SEDAN

Passenger—90 cubic feet
Trunk—14 cubic feet

(Numbers have been rounded to the nearest cubic foot)

SEDANS

Subcompact

Passenger—66 to 87 cubic feet
Average = 78 cubic feet
Trunk—6 to 16 cubic feet
Average = 10 cubic feet

Compact

Passenger—89 to 95 cubic feet
Average = 92 cubic feet
Trunk—11 to 15 cubic feet
Average = 14 cubic feet

Mid-Size

Passenger—95 to 102 cubic feet
Average = 98 cubic feet
Trunk—15 to 17 cubic feet
Average = 16 cubic feet

Large

Passenger—103 to 115 cubic feet
Average = 107 cubic feet
Trunk—17 to 23 cubic feet
Average = 20 cubic feet

AVERAGE STATION WAGONS

Passenger—94 cubic feet

STATION WAGONS

Small

Passenger—68 to 91 cubic feet
Average = 81 cubic feet
Cargo—24 to 40 cubic feet
Average = 31 cubic feet

Mid-size

Passenger—99 to 104 cubic feet
Average = 101 cubic feet
Cargo—39 to 50 cubic feet
Average = 45 cubic feet

Large

Passenger—108 to 112 cubic feet
Average = 111 cubic feet
Cargo—50 to 60 cubic feet
Average = 55 cubic feet

Gas per year

ALL SEDANS—\$188 to \$886 a year

Average = \$506 a year

(Based on the combined fuel economy number; 15,000 miles a year; gas at 65¢ per gallon or diesel fuel at 55¢ per gallon)

\$188 to \$650

Average = \$404

\$375 to \$750

Average = \$521

\$488 to \$886

Average = \$607

\$488 to \$886

Average = \$624

ALL STATION WAGONS—\$206 to \$812

Average = \$529

\$206 to \$513

Average = \$392

\$488 to \$812

Average = \$626

\$513 to \$812

Average = \$671

How much last year?

Is your car costing you more to own & operate than it did last year? Do you really know how much your car transportation is costing?

Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) published *Cost of Owning & Operating an Automobile-1976*, which reveals that owning & operating a standard-size 1976 car during its 10-year life will total \$17,898.96 or 17.9¢ a mile.

According to the booklet, the owner of a 1976 compact car can expect to spend \$14,561.46 or 14.56¢ a mile during its 10-year life. The owner of a sub-compact car will pay \$12,638.35 or 12.64¢ a mile during the same period.

Total taxes on a 1976 standard-size car will be about \$1,562, or about 8.7% of the total costs.

Figures also show that during a standard-size car's 10-year, 100,000 mile trip from the assembly line to the junkyard, the owner will pay \$3,193, excluding tax, for some 6,667 gallons of gas. He will pay \$3,664 to keep the car maintained & in repair; \$1,678 to insure it; & \$2,209 for garaging, parking & tolls.

Report also shows that although the annual trader drives a current model every year, depreciation for the standard-size car over a 10-year period costs him about \$12,150 (10 times the first year's depreciation). The 2-year trader pays \$9,815 (5 times the depreciation for the first 2 years).

For a copy of *Cost of Owning & Operating an Automobile-1976*, contact Office of Public Affairs, Federal Highway Administration, HPA-1, Washington, DC 20590; phone 202-426-0677.

Recalls

EYE DROPS & LOTION—Food & Drug Administration (FDA) announces recall of all lots of the following Rexall over-the-counter ophthalmic products that were recalled by manufacturer: 53,176 units of 118-milliliter (4 fluid oz.) & 53,470 units of 236-milliliter (8 fluid oz.) sizes of Rexall EyeLo Eye Lotion; 43,800 units of 22-milliliter (0.75 fluid oz.) size of Rexall EyeLo Eye Drops; & 96,958 units of 118-milliliter size of Rexall Boric Acid Solution. Reason for recall: Lack of assurance of sterility.

• **SHAD ROE—Food & Drug Administration** (FDA) announces recall of all products manufactured by Cowlitz Fish Co. in 1974, 1975 & 1976 under the following labels in 212.6 gram (7.5 oz.) sizes: Rubinstein's Fancy Shad Roe; Shad Roe (San Marino Preserving Kitchen); & Reese Extra Fancy Shad Roe. Reason for recall: Products are underprocessed.

• **FRUIT PRESERVES—Food & Drug Administration** (FDA) announces recall of all shipments of 296 milliliter (10 ounce) jars of Golden Harvest strawberry, blueberry, peach & pineapple preserves. Product manufactured by National Papaya Co., Tampa, FL, & recalled by General Nutrition Corp., also known as Natural Sales Co. Distribution was nationwide. Reason for recall: Preserves contain sugar, honey & other optional ingredients that are not declared on label.

FTC consent order

Federal Trade Commission (FTC) has accepted a consent order prohibiting Owens-Corning Fiberglas Corp., Toledo, OH, from making unsubstantiated energy & money saving claims for its fibrous glass insulation products for residential use. The complaint that led to the consent order challenges advertisements about the money customers could save by installing its insulation in the attic. FTC's complaint charges that Owens-Corning overstated these claims by basing them on conditions which did not represent the average or typical attic.

Consent agreement is for settlement purposes only & does not constitute an admission by the companies that they have violated the law. When issued by FTC on a final basis, a consent order carries the force of law with respect to future actions. Violations of such an order may result in a civil penalty up to \$10,000 per violation being imposed upon a respondent.

'Sunshine Act'

President Ford has signed the so-called "Sunshine Act" that requires Federal agencies—headed by more than one Presidential appointee—to give advance notice of meeting times & to hold meetings open to the public. Purpose of the new law is to make the Federal Government decision-making process—meetings & transcripts of meetings—open to the public.

In the event Federal agencies do not comply with the provisions of the new law, judicial remedies may be undertaken. New law states specific situations in which closed meetings are permitted. These involve such matters as national security, trade secrets & personal privacy. However, even in many of these instances the law requires that verbatim transcripts of the closed sessions be released.

In order to reduce conflicts of interest, the law prohibits communication between agency officials & outside individuals who have an interest in matters or regulations under consideration. In addition the "Sunshine Act" amends the Freedom of Information Act by limiting the authority of agencies to withhold information that is not specifically restricted by statute.

For a copy of the "Sunshine Act" (PL-409) write Senate Document Room, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC 20510; phone 202-224-4321.

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